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CZECHOSLOVAK PLAN FULFILLMENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1952

According to percentage plan fulfillment figures given in the following official report on Czechoslovak plan fulfillment, the Ministries of Chemical Industry and Heavy Machine Building, among others, fulfilled their plans, for the first half of 1952, but the Ministries of Fuel and Power, Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mining Construction Industry, and General Machine Building fell short. In agriculture, the sowing and crop-purchase plans were not fulfilled, and certain aspects of JZD and MTS activity were unsatisfactory. The construction plan was fulfilled only 84.6 percent, and the freight transportation plans fell short. The plan for retail trade turnover was fulfilled. The report emphasizes production increases over 1951, despite the failures to meet the much higher goals of the 1952 plan.

The Czechoslovak State Statistical Office has issued the following report on the fulfillment of the state economic plan in the first half of 1952.

In the first half of 1952 there was a further increase in industrial production. The high plan goals, however, were not entirely fulfilled, primarily in the plants of the various ministries of heavy industry, because government decrees were not applied everywhere.

The gross-production plan for industry was fulfilled 98.5 percent in the first half of 1952. The industrial plants of the ministries of heavy industry fulfilled their plan 96.4 percent, those of the ministries of light industry 102.9 percent, and the plants of the Ministry of the Food Industry 97.7 percent.

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Individual ministries fulfilled the plan as follows:

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Plan Fulfillment (%)</u>
Fuel and Power	97.8
Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines	98.8
Chemical Industry	100.6
Heavy Machine Building	100.7
General Machine Building	84.6
Light Industry	102.1
Food Industry	97.7
Construction Industry	95.5
Forestry and the Woodworking Industry	104.8
Industrial plants of the Ministry of Information and Enlightenment	101.9
Industrial plants of the Ministry of Health	110.0

In the first half of 1952, industrial production increased 18 percent in comparison with the same period in 1951. This increase amounted to 26.6 percent in the plants of the ministries of heavy industry, 11.0 percent in those of light industry, and 7.6 percent in the plants of the Ministry of the Food Industry.

In comparison with the first half of 1951, the productivity of labor rose, and the ratio between productivity and wages improved.

The output of certain important products in the first half of 1952 was greater than in the first half of 1951, as the following table shows:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Increase Over 1951 (%)</u>
Black coal	6
Brown coal	9
Coke	5
Oil	58
Iron ore	14
Electricity	12
Pig iron	9
Raw steel	5
Rolled goods	8
Suspension cables	20
Diesel engines up to 100-mm bore	36
Locomotives	25
Freight cars with four or more axles	272
Construction machinery	110

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<u>Product</u>	<u>Increase Over 1951 (%)</u>
Machinery for processing sheet metal	20
Electric mine winches	44
Freight elevators	53
Polyamide plastics	227
Tar dyes	16
Lacquer resins	283
Lacquers and oil paints	20
Antipyrine	118
Insulin	108
Cement	4
Fired bricks	13
Work clothes	51
Leather work shoes	10
Softwood lumber	20
Standardized kitchen suites	23
Standardized bedroom suites	24
Edible wheat milled products	8
Edible rye milled products	39
Bread	25
Wheat baked goods	25
Raw oils	38
Synthetic edible fats	16
Bottled milk	2
Creamery butter	12
Preserved milk	38
Cigarettes	12

The production of a number of important products exceeded the plan in the first half of 1952.

The plan was exceeded especially in brown coal mining, petroleum extraction, production of illuminating gas, nonferrous metals, special iron alloys, steel tubing, refined bar steel, chains, leaf springs for wheeled vehicles, electric light bulbs, grain binders, automatic threshing machines, freight cars with four or more axles, synchronous turbocompressors, machinery and equipment for blast furnaces and steel mills, electric mine winches, rake-type conveyers, elevators, tar dyes, lacquer resins, and lacquers, as well as certain drugs, such as insulin, penicillin, antitetanus serums, and inoculation agents: rubber and leather shoes, furniture, paper, finished linen, part-linen, and wool fabrics; wheat and rye milled products, bread, candies, fruit and vegetable products, edible oils, synthetic edible fats, preserved milk, and other products.

Although the successes achieved in plan fulfillment and the development of production were considerable, they were insufficient to insure the quick growth of industrial production as the plan provides.

The Ministry of Fuels and Power fulfilled its plan for the production of black coal only 96 percent, because not all the tasks laid down in party and government resolutions on measures to increase coal output and labor productivity were accomplished. Also, responsible for this poor showing was the lack of intensive effort to introduce new methods of work organization, such as the cyclic graph system, as well as the failure fully to utilize mechanical equipment. Excessive absenteeism also interfered with plan fulfillment.

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The coke production plan was not fulfilled because the black-coal extraction plan was not met.

Although the electric power production plan was fulfilled in the first half of 1952, supplies of electricity had to be limited because of a large number of breakdowns of equipment as well as uneven consumption of current. Another factor was insufficient economy in the use of power, both by factories and by households. Delays in the construction of electric power plants and in the completion of general repairs increased the difficulties.

The Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines did not meet the production plans for pig iron, raw steel, and rolled goods. The main cause of this was the insufficient application of all the provisions of the resolution of the Communist Party and the government on measures to increase production in the metallurgical industry. Delays in bringing new production capacity into operation had a considerable influence on plan fulfillment in several plants.

The Ministry of Heavy Machine Building, although it exceeded its plan in several products, failed to fulfill the plan in a number of important specific areas.

The Ministry of General Machine Building also failed to fulfill its production plan in some important products.

In the plants of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry the planned production level was attained or exceeded in the majority of products. Nonfulfillment of the production plans for certain products was caused either by failure to maintain proper technological procedures in production, or by the fact that the plants did not devote enough attention to avoiding breakdowns and to maintenance of production equipment.

The Ministry of the Construction Industry did not fulfill its plan for the production of cement, bricks, limestone, lime for industrial use, etc.

The Ministry of the Food Industry did not produce the planned amounts of beer, meat products, milk, and butter. The cause of nonfulfillment of the milk, butter, and meat products production plans was the failure to fulfill the crop-purchase plan.

Local industries failed to fulfill their plans, particularly in the production of bricks, limestone, gravel, and ballast.

#### Agriculture and Crop Purchase

During the first half of 1952, there was a further expansion and strengthening of the socialist sector of agriculture. The state farms, the JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives), and the other establishments in the socialist sector operate at present almost 32 percent of the agricultural land belonging to agricultural establishments. The number of higher-type JZD rose particularly, and their membership and production facilities increased.

The sowing plan for most main crops was not completely fulfilled, nor were planned increases in the average weight of slaughter animals attained. The crop-purchase plan also was not fulfilled.

Because of unfavorable weather, spring agricultural work was begun about 3 weeks later than usual. This delay was, however, made up during the course of work, so that sowing and planting were finished in time. According to

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preliminary results, the sowing plan for bread grains fell short of fulfillment by 1.3 percent for fodder grains 1.5 percent, potatoes 3.7 percent, sugar beets 3.6 percent, green fodder 6.3 percent, etc. In spite of this, 2.3 percent more bread grains were sown this year than last, along with 48.8 percent more poppies, 44.7 percent more hemp, 8.8 percent more flax, etc.

The number of livestock as of 29 June 1952 was higher than a year ago; this increase amounted to 5 percent in cattle, 22 percent in pigs, 25 percent in sheep, and 5 percent in poultry. New sources of fodder will have to be provided, since there are more of these animals now than there were before World War II. The number of cows has not yet reached the planned number, and the percentage of cows in the total number of cattle, which is scheduled to reach 51.0 percent by the end of the year, totaled only 48.6 percent at the end of the first half year. The milk and egg production plans were not fulfilled.

The crop-purchase plan was fulfilled in the first half of 1952 only 97 percent in the case of slaughter cattle, 93 percent for slaughter calves, and 91 percent for pigs. In contrast to the same period of last year, 11 percent more pigs were purchased, while the purchases of slaughter cattle and calves were less. The milk-purchase plan was fulfilled only 90 percent, although deliveries this year have been 7 percent greater than during the first half of 1951.

The state farms have provided for accelerated spring work, and, with the exception of certain types of oil seeds, early potatoes, and vegetables, they exceeded their plan for area sowed. They used improved seed and plants to a considerable extent, and employed the experience of Soviet agriculture to a greater extent than previously, particularly in using cross sowing on 22 percent of the grain crops, using check-row hill planting of potatoes, etc.

In comparison with the first half of 1951, the state farms have raised 52,000 more head of cattle this year, 6,000 more cows, 181,000 more pigs, and 60,000 more sheep. As of the end of June the state farms were raising 7.6 percent of all the cattle in Czechoslovakia. At the end of the first half of 1952, the state farms were raising 5 percent more horses per 100 hectares of agricultural land, 18 percent more cattle, 30 percent more sheep, and 27 percent more pigs than a year ago. The average milk production per cow increased 4 percent in the same period, although the plan for average milk production per cow was fulfilled only 86.1 percent.

Certain serious shortcomings showed up in the management of the state farms in the first half of 1952. The state farms have so far not reached the planned number of cows, and the proportion of cows among all cattle has dropped. Certain provisions of the resolution by the party and the government have so far not been satisfactorily fulfilled. These include the provisions on breeding and fertility of heifers and sows, and on the number and frequency of sow litters. State farm workers have not devoted sufficient effort to reducing mortality of calves and suckling pigs. The planned average daily weight increases have not been attained, nor has the planned average live weight of slaughter cattle and pigs.

There were 6,341 JZD at the end of the first half of 1952, 3,402 of which had already adopted the operating rules for types III and IV, representing an increase for types III and IV of 31.6 percent over the level of a year ago. The amount of agricultural land in cooperatives of types II and higher has increased by 11 percent in the past year. The proportion of their arable land area to the total area of arable land rose in the same period from 17 to 19 percent. In every third obec there was a cooperative of type II or higher.

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The unceasing growth of the JZD is shown not only by the accelerated growth of the number of higher-type cooperatives, but also by the rising proportion of agricultural animals which are tended jointly, and particularly of those which are stabled jointly. The proportion of cows in the total number of JZD cattle being tended jointly is, however, still unsatisfactory. Of the total livestock being tended jointly, 82 percent of the horses, 95 percent of the cattle, 94 percent of the pigs, and 95 percent of the sheep were being stabled jointly.

By natural increases and by transfers the number of cattle on JZD increased by 111,000 over the level of a year ago, the number of pigs by 354,000, and the number of sheep by 88,000. At the same time the plan for the whole year for livestock numbers was fulfilled in the case of horses and exceeded in the case of pigs. The number of sows, ewes, and particularly cows remained below the planned level. Sow breeding and fertility have improved in recent months, but are still unsatisfactory; this is also true of the number and frequency of litters among sows. The construction of joint stables must be speeded up, and still more attention must be devoted to zootechnical measures. This spring, 11,000 permanent working groups were established on JZD.

The activity of MTS in the first half of 1952 increased in comparison with the same period of 1951. The spring work plan, calculated in hectares, was fulfilled 102.3 percent. The MTS did not fulfill their plan for transporting logs out of the forests. The contracts providing for the completion of spring work were not satisfactory. Of the field work done, 71 percent was for JZD of type II and higher, and 13 percent for state farms and other public establishments. The proportion of machinery under repair was lower than a year ago, but the utilization of machines, particularly tractors, was still unsatisfactory.

#### Construction

In the first half of 1952 capital construction in the national economy increased still further. At the site of the new Klement Gottwald Metallurgical Plant in Kuncice, operations were begun in two open-hearth furnaces and one blast furnace in the first half of 1952. Other operations were begun in other parts of the plant. The work on this largest construction project was speeded up this year, but has not yet reached the planned level because of the shortage of specialized workers.

New construction in three large electric power plants under construction resulted in increased production in the first half year while work is continuing or being begun on large river dams.

A total of 3,517 construction projects were completed. Of this total, 538 industrial and transportation structures, 362 construction projects for agriculture, and 747 dwelling structures and construction projects for dormitory housing were completed. A total of 9,690 new dwelling units were completed for workers, in addition to dormitory housing, and 30,500 new dwelling units were begun.

Construction increased by 9.9 percent in the first half of this year in comparison with the same period of 1951. The plan, however, called for an increase of 29.9 percent. The construction plan was fulfilled only 84.6 percent in the first half of 1952. The Ministry of the Construction Industry fulfilled the plan for its own employees 88.2 percent.

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The average number of employees actively engaged in construction rose by 0.7 percent over the level of the first half of 1951.

The productivity of labor in construction rose over last year, but not nearly as fast as the plan required. The causes of nonfulfillment of the productivity plan are the high absenteeism rate among employees, excessive turnover, unsatisfactory organization of work, and poor utilization of construction machinery. The latter is due primarily to poor organization of work on construction sites and by insufficient care of machinery, the operation of which is often interrupted by breakdowns. These shortcomings prevented the fulfillment of the accumulation plan of the Ministry of the Construction Industry.

Construction enterprises received more construction machinery from the machine-building plants this year in order to further the mechanization of the most important construction programs. The number of steam shovels under the Ministry of the Construction Industry increased in the first half of 1952 by 9.2 percent, the number of raking machines by 29.6 percent, of shovel carts by 15.8 percent, transport carts by 5.9 percent, cement mixers by 14.7 percent, and cranes by 30.5 percent.

The designing plan was fulfilled 98.9 percent in the first half of 1952.

#### Transportation and Telecommunications

The plan for the first half of 1952 was fulfilled by railroad transportation 99.1 percent, representing an 11.5 percent increase over the work done in the same period of 1951. The increase was attained by improved use of the railroad park, higher labor productivity, and further development of the new, progressive work methods of Soviet railroad workers, particularly those of the "500 men," the "heavy load men," the "luminets" workers, and the "katayevets" workers.

Holding back railroad cars had an unfavorable effect on plan fulfillment.

The passenger railroad transportation plan was fulfilled 100 percent.

The CSAD (Czechoslovak Automobile Transport) fulfilled the highway freight transportation plan 94.7 percent. The failure to fulfill the plan was due primarily to unfavorable weather in the first months of the period. In comparison with the first half of 1951, the volume of highway freight carried increased 92.1 percent.

The passenger highway transportation plan was fulfilled by the CSAD 105.2 percent. The overfulfillment of the plan was influenced by the establishment of new bus lines and by the reduction in the number of busses under repair, as the result of new progressive methods among the drivers. These included traveling 100,000 kilometers or more without accidents, extending the period between general repairs beyond that established by the norms, introducing planned maintenance, etc. In comparison with the first half of 1951, the passenger lines of the CSAD did 22.1 percent more work.

The water transport plan was fulfilled 98.4 percent in the first half year. Air transportation fulfilled its 6-month plan only 85 percent because of bad weather.

The urban transportation plan for the first half of 1952 was fulfilled 102.6 percent. This represents an increase of 1.9 percent in the number of passengers carried, as compared with the first half of 1951.

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Foreign Trade

The total turnover of Czechoslovak foreign trade in the first half of 1952 increased by 3.4 percent over the same period of the preceding year. In this period the share of the USSR and the other countries with planned economies in the total volume of Czechoslovak foreign trade rose from 58.1 percent to 67.8 percent.

Retail Trade Turnover

The retail trade turnover plan was fulfilled 102.6 percent in the first half of 1952.

Purchases by the population, which during several short periods were excessive, were covered in the main by current income and savings. This was primarily responsible for reducing the amount of money in circulation during the first half of 1952 by 23 percent. The retail trade network was always better supplied with consumers' goods and food [than during the corresponding period of 1951]. This was particularly true in the second quarter, when larger quantities were sold. For example, sales of children's ready-to-wear clothing were 51 percent higher than in the first quarter 1952, women's ready-to-wear clothing 22 percent higher, men's ready-to-wear clothing [illegible], leather shoes 65, rubber shoes 3, bicycles 23, bread 9, butter 6, and milk 4 percent higher.

Employment

Employment in the Czechoslovak economy continued to rise in the first half of 1952, and showed a total increase of 4.6 percent from the first of the year. The organized recruitment of manpower has fulfilled its goals, but the continuing labor turnover reduced the success of this program.

The number of employed women is growing steadily. Whereas the percentage of women in the total labor force was 32.1 at the beginning of 1952, this rose to 34.0 by the end of the first half of the year.

In the third year of the Lany manpower program (ranska Akce) more than 11,000 mining apprentices had registered by the end of the school year. This is almost 6 percent more than the plan foresaw. The number of apprentices who registered for the metallurgical industry in the same period was 50 percent above the plan.

Health and Culture

In the first half of 1952 more than one million patients were received for institutional medical care, and spa care was extended to 90,000 patients, which is almost 8 percent more than in the same period of 1951. A significant increase was also attained in the establishment of factory health centers. As of the end of the first half of 1952, there were almost 1,400 factory health center sections and 846 factory medical stations in operation. In these establishments alone, 4,750,000 workers were examined.

Care for the children of employed women was also expanded, making it possible to recruit more women for employment. At the end of the first half of this year there were an average of 20,000 children in nurseries daily, while there was room for more than 30,000. In the same period there were 7,522 kindergarten classes, in which more than 220,000 children were registered. As of the end of the school year, 114,000 pupils in elementary and middle schools belonged to youth associations.

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The number of radio owners increased by 104,000 over the level of a year ago, so that there is now one radio for every 4.8 citizens.

More than 2,000 books were published, totaling 26.6 million copies.

The production of industry and construction has increased this year, as against that of the first half of 1951. The accomplishments of transportation and of the other branches of the economy showed a certain success. These successes, nevertheless, are not sufficient to meet the needs of the Czechoslovak economy. Workers in all branches of the national economy must increase their efforts, so that the goals established by the plan may be successfully met.

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